

tail-coverts, and a broad band extending from the sides of the neck across the nape bright rufous. Feathers of the head pale fulvous at base, changing to rufous at the extremity; many with broad black centres. Dorsal feathers and wing-coverts black, with narrow fulvous edgings; those on the rump edged and tipped with rufous. Quills dark brown, with yellowish-rufous edgings. Rectrices above also dark brown, the outer webs washed with tawny rufous; tips pale fulvous. Rectrices underneath ashy brown; a bold black bar or spot near the end of each feather, which is terminated with pale fulvous. Lores, chin, cheeks, throat, and remaining under surface fulvous white, more or less tinged on the breast with pale rufous. Upper mandible dark brown; under mandible yellowish at base. Legs reddish yellow. Bill from forehead $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch, tarsus $\frac{5}{8}$, tail $2\frac{1}{8}$, wing $1\frac{1}{16}$. In another example the rectrices above want the pale terminal fringe.

Obtained at Debrooghur.

This very distinct species, in its style of coloration, greatly resembles *Graminicola bengalensis*, Jerd. Dr. Jerdon informs me that it occurs all through Assam, but only in dense long grass.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Natural History of the Azores, or Western Islands. By F. DU CANE GODMAN, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c. Svo. London: Van Voorst, 1870.

THE last thirty or forty years have much advanced our knowledge of the physical conditions and productions of those interesting archipelagos or groups of islands which, from about the latitude of Lisbon to a few degrees within the northern tropic, stud the eastern confines of the great Atlantic. We have in the work before us a very useful and valuable addition to our acquaintance with the most northerly and hitherto least thoroughly explored of these four groups.

Mr Godman's personal narrative and observations occupy the smaller portion of the volume. But it brings together various contributions by other able writers on the collections made by him, so as to present a complete *conspectus* of the present state of our acquaintance with the Zoology and Botany of the Açores. Why, by the way, must we ask, does Mr. Godman retain the English barbarian and entirely unwarrantable spelling of the word (arising either from a mistake of the *ç* for the letter *z*, or from a bad representation in English of the Portuguese pronunciation)?

The author's own short narrative of his four months' visit, and account of the few Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Batrachians, and Freshwater Fishes hitherto observed in the islands, is followed by a long and careful enumeration of the Insects (mainly Coleoptera),

from the pen of Mr. Crotch. This is extremely valuable, from its affording accurate data for comparison with the more elaborate works of Mr. Wollaston on the Coleopteran Faunas of Madeira, the Canaries, and Cape Verdes.

A short survey of the Land Mollusks, by the Rev. H. B. Tristram, enumerates (with a few others) all Morelet and Drouet's species—confirming some of the latter by examples found by Mr. Godman, but leaving a majority, and indeed all the *Limacidae* and *Vitrineæ*, in the same apocryphal category in which they stand as exhibited in M. Morelet's book. The apparent absence of any member of the Pulmonibranchiate group is a remarkable fact—if a fact. Their extreme rarity seems at least established—a fact which, considering the favourable conditions pointed out for their occurrence by Mr. Tristram, is scarcely less curious than their supposed entire absence.

In Mr. Hewett Watson's elaborate and valuable history, catalogue, and general survey of the Flowering Plants and Ferns, we do not fail to find the usual characteristics of their well-known author, viz. a most careful accuracy, not to say nicety, in all minute points of detail, in the case especially of plants of doubtful or subordinate specific rank, combined with a clear and logical precision in adjusting the balance fairly between the weight of facts or evidence for or against his final, particular and general conclusions. He reviews *seriatim* each one of the species originally discovered by himself or subsequently by others, showing, in very many instances, the extreme looseness and incorrectness of Drouet's Catalogue, and amending critically that of Seubert, with reference especially to habitats. Thus, this new Catalogue is indeed, as intended by its author (p. 124), "a key or index to all the earlier-dated floral lists for the Isles," and "a more true list of the presently (*sic*) known species, approximately complete and correct for the time being, although doubtless further additions and corrections will be made in the future."

With Drouet's List especially in view, and indeed the works of others here and there, we cannot but largely participate in Mr. Watson's amusingly strong and repeated expressions of distaste for "little distinctions" (p. 172), "petty and inconstant technical distinctions" (p. 123). This is a mere question, however, where to draw the line; and each man draws it, of course, below himself. Nor does Mr. Watson really, we believe, go so far on this point as his words in some places by themselves imply. For not only does he except expressly from his censure, as "a bias towards the safer side" (p. 123), or as "useful in local describers" (p. 172), such distinct treatment of ambiguous varieties or species, but he directly blames (p. 259) the late Sir W. J. Hooker for a tendency with Milde in pteridology "to an excessive aggregation of species, which," he justly adds, "so much lowers the scientific value and serviceableness of Sir William Hooker's works on the same group of plants." And to bring the matter still more closely home, we may refer to Mr. Watson's treatment (p. 211) of his own adopted bantling, as it may be called, *Lysimachia azorica*, Hochst.—a treatment, however, in

which we heartily concur. In fact we are quite assured that, in the case of a *primâ facie* discovery of a new form, Mr. Watson is too sound a working botanist not to admit that in minute attention to "small differences" and "little distinctions"—occasionally stamped, for attracting or facilitating further observation, and whilst yet unproved to be really trivial or inconstant, with a special name—lies the very safest way to truth in settling the limits ultimately of a species, and this despite all liability to abuse that may accrue in thus "allowing nice opportunities to petty minds to make petty distinctions on paper" (p. 161).

This very valuable portion of the book is followed by a carefully compiled list by Mr. Mitten of all the Mosses and Liverworts (*Hepaticæ*) hitherto discovered in Madeira, the Canaries, and Açores. Of these, we have only time and space to observe that they appear entirely to confirm the conclusion arrived at by Mr. Watson (p. 276) with reference to the Flowering Plants and Ferns, viz. that "on the whole . . . they can hardly be said to yield any special evidence in support of the Darwinian theories;" though instead of admitting that "their affinities on the general view are more in support of those theories than adverse to them," we should rather have remarked that, in many signal and decisive points, they seem to us to run directly counter to them.

Mr. Godman concludes his interesting volume with a short summary and general remarks, followed by a full index of scientific names and two small maps, showing the relative position of the islands and of the whole group. It remains to be noted, for the encouragement of future investigators, that he has still left unexplored in Botany the Lichens, Algæ, and Fungi, and in Zoology the highly interesting provinces, in their relation to the Canaries and Madeira, of the Arachnida, Crustaceans, Radiates, Sponges, Corallines, Sea-Fishes, and Mollusks.

He has added, however, to our "helps to knowledge" a book from which not only the practical naturalist, but any one who is at all competent unbiasedly to sift and weigh the alleged "facts" of modern "science," and the varieties of airy theoretic superstructure attempted to be raised upon them, may derive not less profit than interest and entertainment.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The late ADRIAN HARDY HAWORTH.

By DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

It has often occurred to me that English naturalists have hardly done justice to the great scientific merits of this industrious and far-seeing botanist and entomologist, no doubt in consequence of his being so far in advance of his age at a time when not to be a worshipper of the Linnean school as understood in England (which is most unlike the practice and example of Linnæus himself) was a sufficient mark of opprobrium to almost exclude him from scientific societies. As a